

星野之宣

Yoshinori Hino

BIG
COMICS
SPECIAL

火南神 *kaminari*

—忌部神奈・女の神話シリーズ—

火南神

—忌部神奈・女の神話シリーズ—

星野之宣

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BIGCOMICS SPECIAL

小説

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COMICS
SPECIAL



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神
南
火

『天孫降臨』の神話シリーズ

星野之宣

天孫降臨神話の木花開耶姫は
出生の時、なぜ産屋に火を放ったのか？
天孫戸神話で有名な天字受売神が持つ、
もう一つの名前は？

神話・伝承に登場する女性神、姫君には
秘められた別の名がある！
女性史研究家・島田神楽が、
伝説の裏側に潜む謎と真実を
解き明かす伝奇ロマン。



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火南神

—忌部神奈・女の神話シリーズ—

Inube Kana's Mythology of Women Series



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Yukinobu Hoshino Presents

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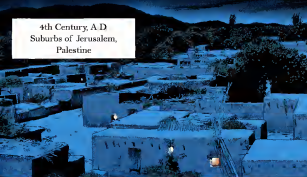


Chapter 1:

Kamunabi

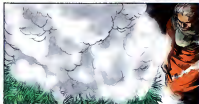
[Part One]

4th Century, A.D.
Suburbs of Jerusalem,
Palestine





ANNNNN!
ANNNN
NNNN!!



UUUUUU
UUUGH!!
UUUUUU
UUUGH!!





It's a
woman...

She was
pregnant.
She died
before
giving
birth...

Look,
there's a
small bone
in her
abdomen...

Present Day
Saito City, Miyazaki
Prefecture, Kyushu



She may have died immediately before or during birth. Poor thing...

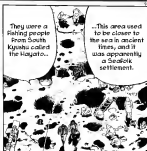
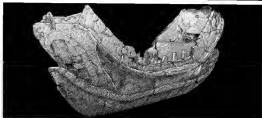
Yayoi Period Ruin
Excavation Site

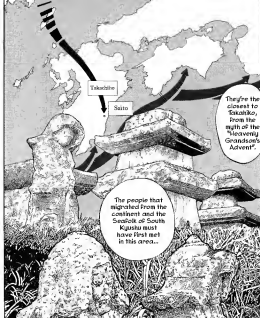
We don't know that yet!
And this site is closed to the public, alright...?











They're the closest to Takahiko, from the myth of the "Heavenly Grandson's Advent".

The people that migrated from the continent and the Seafolk of South Kyushu must have first met in this area...



Let's take a visit to the nearby Tsuma Shrine.









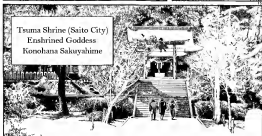


If she was guilty, she would burn to death. But if she was innocent...

This was the Birth in Flames... Her self-sacrificial oath led to her giving birth to three children, proving their legitimate parentage.



But since Honoringi doubted whether the child was his, Konoehime Sakuyashime locked herself in her delivery room and set it on fire...



Tsuna Shrine (Saito City)
Enshrined Goddess
Konoehime Sakuyashime



Our women's magazine is doing a special edition on birth and childrearing. So we asked Po Tsubo to write an essay...

And you're reporting on the Birth in Flames?



There are burial mounds there called Osohotuka and Mesahotuka which supposedly represent Hononinigi and Kanahara Sakuyahime, so...

I hear that they still conduct rituals at the nearby Saitobaru Burial Mound Group that recreates the Birth in Flames.







In the settler's eyes, this would have been a strange custom of the Seafolk they first encountered.

That may be why they passed it on in myth.



That completely violates their motherly instincts... I think there was some hidden meaning here.



But childbirth is life-threatening enough as it is. To start a fire on top of it may result in burning them and their children to death.



May I ask you not to smoke on the shrine grounds...?

















It was said to refer to a pyramid-shaped mountain that resembled a snake, feared since ancient times, and these are often tied to legends and myths of snakes.

"Kamunabi" is thought to refer to a place or a mountain where a god resides, hidden, but its original meaning is unknown.



Even Isema, famous for its myth of Yamata-no-Orochi, has four Mount Kamunabi...



On Kamunabi



Mt. Isema-Kamunabi,
Suzama Prefecture



Tataru-Kamunabi



Mt. Akiba-Kamunabi







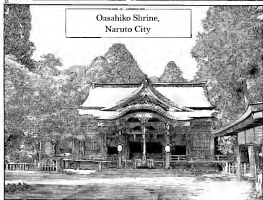
Inbe Shrine,
Oe District



Tokushima Prefecture,
Shikoku



Oasahiko Shrine,
Naruto City



Hokuto no Gun Presents

神南火

kaminarihi

—忌部神奈・女の神話シリーズ—

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Yukinobu Hoshino Presents

Chapter 2

Kamenrōbi

(Part 1)





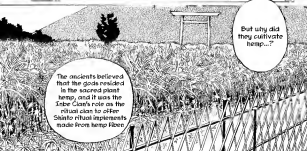
That's right, Hayama. It's likely a shrine that was erected after the ancient Inbe Clan migrated to Shikoku to cultivate hemp. Behind it is Mt. Oasa... There must've been a field of hemp in the mountains.



Oasa Shrine... The word for hemp is pronounced "oasa" instead of "hama" here, right, Pr Inbe?



The area around Inbe Shrine is called Ge District, and it just so happens to be an area where hemp grew. There's also a Mt. Oasa in Kagawa Prefecture. They're all traces of the Inbe.



The ancients believed that the gods resided in the sacred plant hemp, and it was the Inbe Clan's role as the ritual clan to offer Shinto ritual implements made from hemp fiber.

But why did they cultivate hemp...?

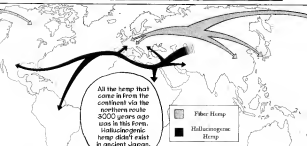




It was also the Inbe Clan that supplied the hemp fabric that the Emperors would wear in their coronation... This is still carried out by the households that descend from the Shikoku Inbe.



The shrines' wandering ropes, bell ropes, and streamers used in purification rituals... They're all made of sacred hemp. The amulets of Ise Shrine are also known as "Shrine Hemp" for that reason.





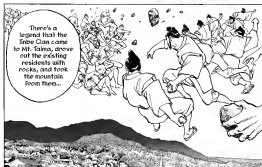




There's a Mt. Tama in the Iwami region of Shimane Prefecture, facing the Sea of Japan, and the Inbe Clan are connected to it...



I looked into the Inbe Clan when we stopped in Izumo.



There's a legend that the Inbe Clan came to Mt. Tama, drove out the existing residents with rocks, and took the mountain from them...



Well...

But why...? I would think that Shikoku would've produced enough hemp for fiber...



It could be that the Inbe Clan raided one hemp-producing land after another and took them for themselves...



GYAAAAAAAAA
NNNNNNN!!



WAAA
AAAA
UGH!









This is the
"Myth of Mt.
Miwa", also
known as
the myth of
the Snake-
Mediums...

But according
to the legend
of Mt. Miwa in
Yamato, the
maiden died of
fright, and
was buried in
Hoshibaka
Burial
Mound...

According
to the
legend of
Mt. Saka
in Iga, the
maiden
gave
birth to a
snake's
child.



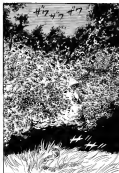
And Mt. Miwa
is the Kamunabi
of Kamunabi!
The Kamunabi
of Yamato!!





Sakurai City, Nara Prefecture
Mt. Miwa







There's a town called Izumo on the south foot, which they believe was populated by migrants from Izumo. Go further west, and there's a place called Inbe...

This is called the mountain's edge path. It's an ancient path that goes around the foot of Mt. Mōso.

I would've liked to come while it was brighter out.



Having given it some thought, I have a feeling I'm treading the same paths as the ancient Inbe.

It all started with the myth of the Birth in Flames...



The Inbe had rivals. The Nakatomi Clan, led by Nakatomi-no-Kamatari, author of the Taika Reforms, were a fellow ritual clan that were poised to monopolize all the rituals.



The ancient Inbe also caught a wind from that myth,

of a heap that can induce illusions and intoxication... As the ritual clan, the Inbe considered this a powerful weapon that could allow them to perform their court rituals much more mystically!



Four Kamunabi

Inbe

Mr. Ono

with the clan's livelihood on the line, they sought the mountains that the Shinto called "Kamunabi", and swarmed the hemp-producing land of Kyushu, Shikoku, Boso...

Inbe

Asa



Mr. Ono

Inbe

Inbe

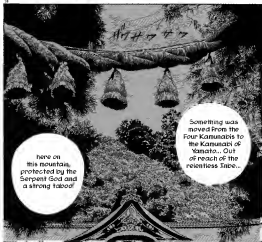
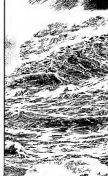
Ono

And the Four Kamunabi of Izumo...



From
Izumo
to Mt.
Misa...

According to
Japanese mythology,
a god that
drifted ashore in
Izumo sought to
be worshipped on
Mt. Misa in Yamato,
so he was enshrined
on the Kamunabi of
Yamato, as the god
Omononushi.



Here on
this mountain,
protected by the
Serpent God and
a strong taboo!

Something was
moved from the
Four Kamunabi to
the Kamunabi of
Yamato... Out
of reach of the
relentless Inbe...



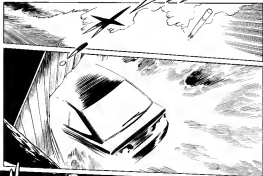














AND WON'T THERE BE PEOPLE THAT WILL START FEELING FUNNY ONCE THE SMOKE SPREADS TO THE SURROUNDING AREA?



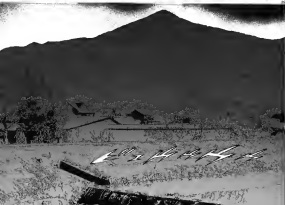
THERE'LL BE ONLOOKERS HERE SOON ENOUGH! AND IF NO ONE CALLS A FIRE ENGINE, THIS WIND WILL SPREAD THE FLAMES ALL OVER MT. MINA!



SABURO, REPORT THE FIRE!









It is widely thought that
hallowmogeneous hemp
originated in Central
Asia, and spread over
the entire world over the
millennia. It is known
as "bhanga" in India,
"hashish" in Arabia...

It was called
"kambos" in Semitic
languages, and
there appear to be
descriptions of it in
the Old Testament



The etymology of
the scientific name
of hemp can be
seen found in the
name given to it
by the Scythians,
who are believed
to have indirectly
transmitted the
equestrian culture
to ancient Japan.

The scientific
name of hemp
is "Cannabis"...

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Chapter 3:
Sun Horse







That reminds me,
I noticed there
are a lot of
places called
Komagata
Senge, or
Komagotake.



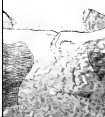
Totoku has been
a horse-breeding
center since
ancient times,
so there are lots
of legends and
facts surround-
ing horses.

I also happen
to be a hot
spring critic...



These are
also related
to "horses"! Why
don't we pay a
visit to Komagata
Senge, the top
shrine in Kusatsu,
tomorrow?

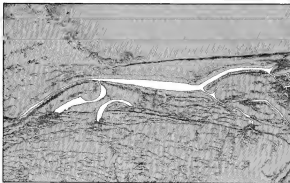
Pew...







Sun Horse!



Sun...
Horse?





Present Day







Kamogatake Shrine, Karikoma Town,
Miyagi Prefecture







The
Uffington
White
Horse...



A 111m long
figure on a hill
in Uffington,
England

It is said to have
been made by the
Celts 2000 years ago,
by digging up the
soil bed beneath the
meadow in the shape
of a horse, but
its meaning and
purpose are still
unknown



As its figure running from East to West represents the course of the sun from sunrise to sunset, some say it was made to pray for regular weather.

From Helios in Greek mythology to Surya in India, and even in China, people believed that the sun god travelled from East to West on a chariot drawn by heavenly horses.



Some even regarded horses as the symbol of the sun itself.

Uffington

The "Sun Horse" existed worldwide.





My brother
Harold Pecker...
He's a student
studying
ancient
cultures.



He's been
missing since he
came to Japan
Four years
ago...?!



There's
no doubt
about it.
That's the
British
man I met
Four years
ago...



You're...
Pecker
from the
Kyoto
Equus...?!





So every time we travel between matches, I look for him... alone...



I started playing in Japan two years ago... hoping that my brother would turn up...

I asked everyone from the embassy to the police, but no one knows where he is.



That's all I have to go on...

He said that the Sun Horse existed in cultures around the world, and there were places in Japan like the white horse in Uffington that he was going to see...



...I see...



Snow Figure?

But you can see a horse-shaped "snow figure" on a mountain called Komagatake.



Well, he was wrong. There's nothing like that in Japan.



The snow lingering on the mountain between spring and summer just so happens to look like a horse.

Aizu Komagatake,
Kai Komagatake,
Kiso Komagatake...
Even Mt. Kurikoma is an
abbreviation of Kurikoma
Komagatake. Many of
them are named after
their seoi figures
of horses.



That's what
I told your
brother
four years
ago.



They're
entirely different
from the
white horse of
Uffington, and
have nothing
to do with the
"Sun Horse".

This is in part due
to their faith as
a horse-rearing
land, where they
have also built
wooden horses,
and Komagatake
Shrine, which
enshrines the
Horse-Headed
Kannon.



It sounds like
you were
very close...



It was
just the
two of us,
growing
up...

When we
were children,
Harry always
let me play
soccer
with him...



We chased
after the ball
together...
all the time...



Until Harry
lost a leg in
a traffic
accident...





If there were so
close, there's no way
he could hide himself
for so many years...





Around July,
seven years ago... huh...



Is this really
going to help
solve the
mystery we
commissioned
from you,
Pe Teio?"

Just
look!



...Is
this it?



There aren't any
mountains south
of Tohoku that
would have snow
figures in this
season...



...Hmm, it looks like they haven't found the plane yet.









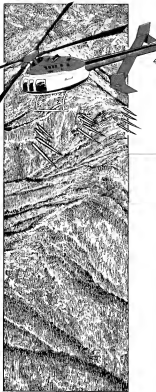
...It has a haphazard shape, but the people at the foot saw it as a "white horse", and would use it to divine the climate of the year and pray for an abundant crop.



Yes...
I wonder why they saw it as a horse...









Harry...





One month later
Kyoto



Kifune Shrine,
Kurama







And when they
needed the
light of the sun
during a long
spell of rain,
they gave a
white horse...



At some point, the
Japanese began
offering live horses
whenever making
wishes to the gods.
When they needed
rain for their crops
during a drought,
they gave a
black horse...



There is a myth in
which Susanoh,
who opposed the
sun goddess
Amaterasu,
committed an
outrage by
throwing a
Flying horse.



There are
also records
of people
offering a
chestnut
horse during
a solar
eclipse.

They believed
that horses
were related
to rain, the
sun, and solar
eclipses.



Enraged,
Anatemasu hid
in the Ama-no-
Iwato, and
plunged the
world in
darkness...



Then what
would a
horse that
was played
and killed
mean?

If the
Japanese
considered the
horse to be an
animal that
symbolizes
war...

Susanob cast a
curse on the sun,
which brought
darkness upon
the world... We
can interpret it
that way.

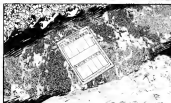


The death of
the sun, a
curse...











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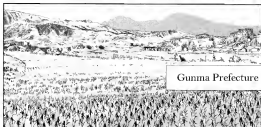
Yukinobu Hoshino Presents

Chapter 4:
The Silent Sheep



When making a sacrifice to the state minister,
a lamb should be used. This lamb must not
have horns... It must not bleat when it is held,
and it must not cry when it is killed.
“Luxuriant Dew of the Spring and Autumn Annals”









Oh...



Now I don't mind Kusatsu, Yokozaki, but Western Gunma has a lot of deep connections with ancient history, so I want to take my time here.

With you?



Unngh...













Of the province
of Kamikatsura,
the district of Katanka,
the district of Midono,
the district of Kano,
and the three hundred
households within
them, shall form a
district that will be
bestowed upon
"Hitsuji", and its
name shall be the
district of Tago.



Considering the
name was inscribed
on a donation file
Found From the ruins
of Kozuka Kokutsum
Temple, the ruler
named "Hitsuji"
appears to have
been real...



This dovetails
with the legend
of "Hitsuji-dayu",
which is passed
down in Gunma
and Saitama.



A great man
standing over 2m tall,
Hitotajima served the
Imperial Court, and
locally, he excavated
the copper mines of
Choshiro and toiled
in the restoration
of weaving...

Legend has it that
he would travel
to and from the
capital every
day, with his fleet
horse "Chestnut
Genda" and his
servant Yatsuka.
Kobayashi

But he was
suspected of
treason by mere
accident, and the
army was sent
upon him. After
a fierce battle,
his entire clan
was destroyed.



Now, nobody
knows their
history...



Himeji Shrine,
Amatsuka City
Enshrined Deity:
Himejirou

Amenokoyane-no-Mikoto



He appears
in Japanese
mythology along
with Fuhodama,
the god of the
Inari Clan, my
own ancestors
who were also
a ritualist clan.

Amenoko-
yane is the
ancestral
god of the
Nakatomi
Clan, who
performed
the court
rituals.



Together
they
performed
scapularity
in the myth
of Ama-
no-Iwato!



Among the gods that gathered for a council, Asenokoyane and Futodome burned a deer bone to divine the measure they should take. This is the most famous scapulimancy scene.

Infuriated by Susanob's riot, the sun goddess Amaterasu hid herself in Amara-no-Iwato, plunging the world into darkness...



F...
Far...
the...
F...



And now, we have a sheep bone that was apparently used for scapulimancy...

Hiruyi-dogye's ancestor is said to be a god of scapulimancy...



The victim, Martina Tarnow (age 36)

富國市内外
少女の身元
感傷歌謡の
生の感傷歌
十六才と題
著の証言
とみて引
る。
富國市内外
少女の身元
感傷歌謡の
生の感傷歌
十六才と題
著の証言
とみて引





It was fine while he was just helping out with excavations, but now he's digging up the hills and dunes on his own. Can you believe that...?

ARIMA
YUKI
CHIE





But I thought
there weren't
any sheep in
Japan before
the Meiji Period,
were there,
Pa Izibee?



There were
plenty of sheep
in the mainland,
so importing
them in and of
itself wouldn't
have been
difficult.

There are
records of a
few sheep at
a time being
taken over
to Japan.





They would take the bone of a sheep used in a sacrificial ritual, and burn it to divine the future. This was done in Rome, China, and even Persia...

And by the way, the origins of scapulimancy are in Central Asia or Arabia



Drunk Persian's
Followers Mask
(Shasani)



Sheep
and Tree
Hoket
on
Folding
Screen
(Shasani)



And
it's been
proven
that Persian
migrants
were in
ancient
Japan!





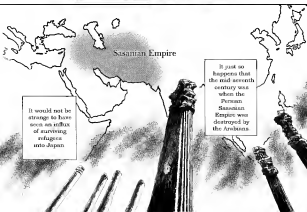
Face Stone
(Asuka)

These amazing engineers were involved in the aqueduct and stone furnishing projects that were conducted on a large scale in the Asuka Period, and their foreign appearances still remain in some areas.



The annals of Seimeki in the Nihon Shoki have records of people from Tokara migrating to Japan, which is believed to be Tocharistan. There are also records of painters and masons with barbarian names.

Stone Statue
(Asuka)



Sasanian Empire

It would not be strange to have seen an influx of surviving refugees into Japan.

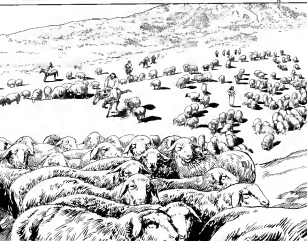
It just so happens that the mid-seventh century was when the Persian Sasanian Empire was destroyed by the Arabians.



And these people
would have brought a
number of sheep, and
large Arabian horses
to herd them...



And this
migratory group
of barbarians was
given the land of
Togo District
to reside in...



*And they rode
like the wind on
Arabian horses,
a full size larger
than Japanese
horses...*



That was
the "Hittite"
clan...

They passed on
their advanced
culture, including
metal rising to
wool weaving...



They
offered sheep
as sacrifices,
using their bones
for authentic
divination, and
reporting the
fortunes to
the Court...











She was only two or three years old. She went to the mountain alone and came back with it.

It was Tamine that discovered that bone...



This could prove that Persian immigrants came to this country with sheep and horses, and became Hittujikay!

How-
ever...



After studying it, I was in ecstasy. So peacefully with sheep! This was the evidence for my research that I was forming all the mouth to obtain!



Tamire,
where did
you find it?

A high place?
A low place?
Try to
remember!



It would
amount to
nothing if
I couldn't
prove how
old the sheep
bone was, or
if it was even
'in Japan'

It would
have no
archaeological
meaning if it
wasn't clear
where and
how it was
excavated.



But the
young Tamire
couldn't
remember
a thing...









I HATE
THAT BONE!
DAMMIT! IF
IT WEREN'T
FOR THAT...

HOW
COULD
I HAVE
MEANT TO
KILL MY
SISTER
...IT







110/110



Do I know, I...



Good grief...



I can feel their shadows in the legend of Hitsuji-days.

There is also the legend of the hero Roston, who rode the fleet horse Raths.

There is a Persian myth of an ancient king that spread the methods of mining and weaving to the citizens.



Their neighbors may have been on guard against their production of large horses and their alien culture, but now no one is left to speak of them...

Hitsuji-days is destroyed, like that tragic hero.



Even if I die
before I find
any, it is the
only penance
I can give as
a Father...

I plan to
find a great
number of sheep
bones, and
offer them to
Tanne's
grave.



Now that I think of it,
the late Tanne may
have had beautiful
barbarian blood in
her veins.

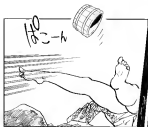
Perhaps it was just my
imagination that I saw
the features of the
ancient barbarians in
the face of the man that
sought the sheep bones...



You know,
I might
take you up
on that...



Hey, De Imbe,
now that the
shoot's finished,
want me to
wash your
back...? Haha!



Hokuto no Gun Presents

神南火

kaminari

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Chapter 5:
Dance of Sarume



The
Great God
Susrubiku...
The god that
illuminated
the heavens
and the
Earth...



According to
Japanese mythology,
the Celestial Gods
that descended to
rule over the land
encountered a
strange god at
the many-forked
crossroad of Awa-
no-Yashimatsu...

His nose was
abnormally long,
and he was tall in
stature. "His mouth
and ear shone red,
his eyes were as
the Mirror of Yata
and shone as
a winter cherry"
(Nihon Shoki)



And the one who
found out that
this god had
come with no
examination, but
intended to
guide them to
the land, was a
goldsmith named
Ame-no-Uzume...





Can't you make it work, Dr. Enloe...? It's the year of the monkey, so I'd really like you to write something on that theme to coordinate with the hot spring tour.

Mmmmm!



Ibusaki Hot Springs,
Kagoshima Prefecture



...Well, that's a tall order. Sarutahiko and Uzu no are both rather vague gods...



Usame may have
later married
Sarutahiko and
taken on the
name "Sarume",
but now you'd
be more familiar
with them in
quite different
imagery.

I told you,
Sarutahiko
has nothing to
do with
monkeys,
despite the
"saru" in his
name.



Please, Pe
Inioo! We've
been invited
to a luxury
cruise and
everything!



Monkeys,
Tengu, and
Otafuku...
Yeah, I'm not
getting the
urge.



Starting with Onsen
Hot Springs, we'll be
traveling to a number
of famous hot springs
by sea... From Beppu
Hot Springs in Ōita, to
Fogo Hot Springs in
Ehime, and Shirahama
Hot Springs in Nanki.



Thank you very
much for joining
us on the maiden
voyage of Sanbō
Tourism's latest
project, "Hot
Springs Cruise!"



Please
enjoy the
food and
dancing on
board the
cruise!



Wow! They've
even got
composers
in swimsuits...





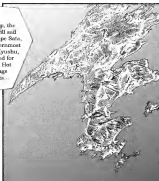
There's smoke rising
from Sakana
Island, over by
Kagoshima...



His eyes were as
the Mirror of Yata,
and shone as a
winter cherry...



This ship, the
Sanki, will sail
around Cape Seno,
the southernmost
point of Kyushu,
and head for
Beppu Hot
Springs
in Oita...





Amaterasu is famous for being the goddess that succeeded in luring Amaterasu out of hiding with her half-naked dance in the myth of Ama-no-Iwato.



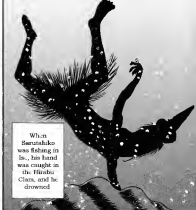
How
ever...



After
she met
Saratu-
hiko, she
went with
him to live,
where they
were wood



When
Sasuratahiko
was fishing in
Is., his hand
was caught in
the Hirabu
Clam, and he
drowned



Even just in
Is., Sasuratahiko
is worshipped
at Sasuratahiko
Shrine and
Tsubaki-
Okami Shrine...
There are still
countless shrines
dedicated to him
around the nation



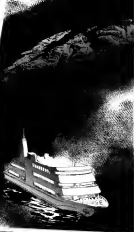
The "Ladies of Serume", who performed singing and dancing at the requiem rituals of the Court, were said to be her descendants.



Utsune took on the "Sara" from Sarutahiko's name, and began calling herself Serume.













The
Great God
"Sada"...?!

Yes... There is an
old theory that
the Great God
Sada, From Sada
Shrine in Izumo,
is Sarutahiko.



The Great God
Sada, born in a
ray of morning
sunlight piercing
through a coastal
cavern, is one
of the sun gods.



I
see...

The coast,
the ray of
sunlight... If
Sarutahiko was
also known as
"Sadahiko",
they would
share a lot
of imagery
in common.





The sun looks
red when it
rises, and
red when it
sets...

This brings to
mind the red
face and rear
of a monkey.

"His
mouth
and rear
shone
red..."



Oh...?



Since the myths have a
tendency to abuse the
aboriginal people by
calling them the names
of animals, it's possible
that they represented
the great god Sada
using the character
for monkey, or "sada".



This would mean that the Great God Sada was the Sun and the Earth... A god so massive, he symbolized everything in this world.

ZZZ
ZZ...

And the ancients thought that when the sun set in the west, it would traverse the depths of the earth and the ocean overnight, to return to the east.

In the volcanic nation of Japan, they may have imagined that the sun would sometimes spout out its heat and light from underground.



Cape Sada



Cape Sada

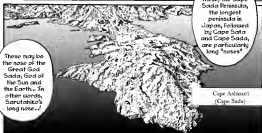
The points of landmasses we call "capess" are often called "noses" by sailors.

If you look at a map, you can see a number of capes called "Noses".



And among these, the Cape Sada Peninsula, the longest peninsula in Japan, followed by Cape Sada and Cape Sada, are particularly long "noses".

These may be the nose of the Great God Sada, God of the Sun and the Earth... In other words, Sarutahiko's long nose...



Cape Ashimori (Cape Sada)



HOW LONG DO WE HAVE TO STAY HERE? A PAY? TWO PAYS?

T...There's no danger here. We've already made the call. We just have to hold out until rescue comes.

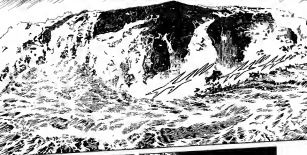


WHAT IF THE CURRENT TAKES US OUT TO THE PACIFIC? DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT ALREADY!



That's right. The waters between Shikoku and Kyushu were known as "Hayashimato" in ancient times, and the currents are quite fast here.



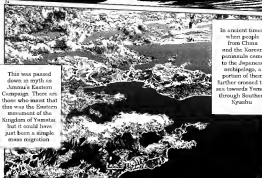






This was passed down in myth as Jimmu's Eastern Campaign. There are those who insist that this was the Eastern movement of the Kingdom of Yamato, but it could have just been a simple mass migration.

In ancient times, when people from China and the Korean peninsula came to the Japanese archipelago, a portion of them further crossed the sea towards Yamato through Southern Kyushu.

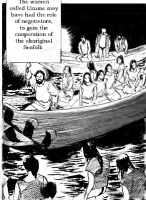




A group intended to
appease other
races through
singing,
dancing,
or even
sleeping...

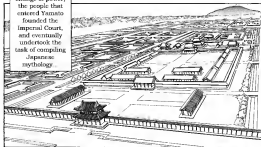
Mixing and
mingling into
Japan... It
would hardly
be strange, if
such women
existed.

The women
called Uzume may
have had the role
of negotiators,
to gain the
cooperation of
the aboriginal
Seafolk.





Following a change of power, the people that entered Yamato founded the Imperial Court, and eventually undertook the task of compiling Japanese mythology.



37



They could not simply leave the ancient god of the Sun and the Earth "Susa" as he was. This was because the new sun goddess Amaterasu had been confirmed at Ise.



They created myths that told of the aboriginals smoothly yielding the land to the settlers.





A powerful goddess that made the giant god Suta yield the nation, took him to sea, and brought about his fate of drowning.

The myths created a goddess named Ame-no-Uzume.

And so, the great god Suta sank into the ocean like the sunset, while Amaterasu rose from the rocks like the dawn.

Uzume bore the role of cleverly substituting in the new Sun Goddess.

Meanwhile, she succeeded in coaxing Amaterasu from her cave.



The great god
Sada was given
the abating
character of
"sara", then
Urume became
Sarume and was
forgotten from
mythology.

They were
both pitiful
gods who
existed only
to be used...



THE
TOW-
BOAT
IS
HERE!
WE'RE
SAVED!



...Oh,
yeah?... I
see... Ahhh.





Ise





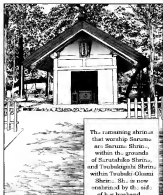
However the myths may have been formed, the gods gained life when people of later generations shared a common belief in them.



Serama, meanwhile, was loved throughout the generations as the jovial and sensual "Onafuku".



The ancient great god "Sada" was formalized by the people as "Sarutahiko the Tengu".



The remaining shrines that worship Sarume are Sarume Shrine, within the grounds of Karatsukabe Shrine, and Tsubokigaki Shrine, within Tsubaki-Okami Shrine. She is now ordained by the wife of her husband...



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Chapter 6:
*The Flower
and the Rock*



Fujinomiya City
Shizuoka Prefecture
Fujisan-Hongu Sengen
Grand Shrine











Frightened by
her appearance,
Isonagahime
sent back
Isonagahime
alone.



But
Isonagahime
was incredibly
ugly...



BUT BECAUSE HE
CHOSE KONOYAMA
SAKUYAMINE ALONE,
THE LIFESPANS
OF THE HEAVENLY
DESCENDANTS
WOULD BE AS BRIEF
AND TRANSIENT AS
THE TREES AND
FLOWERS!

Enraged,
Oyamatsul
declared this:
Had he taken
Isonagahime as
well, he would have
obtained life as long
as the very rocks!



It's also
called the
myth of the
"Origin of
Death".

This is given as
the reason that
the Emperors
must die like
normal people.



The people cried to the gods... "We cannot eat this! Send us something else!" So the gods gave them bananas instead.

Long ago, people would survive off the things sent down to them by the gods. But one day, all they sent down was a stone.

This is also known as a Banana-type myth, which is found throughout Southeast Asia and Oceania.



Hmm, I see...

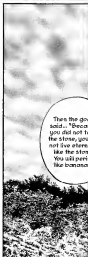


But it's true that stones aren't edible, and speaking as a man myself, I'd much rather choose to marry a beautiful young lady than a monster woman, even if it meant a shorter life.

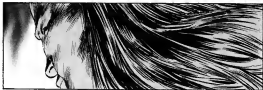
Nie-hahha!



I'm interested in how Isana-gohime felt...



Then the gods said... "Because you did not take the stone, you will not live eternally like the stone. You will perish like bananas!"













We're hoping to interview Mr. Fujisato's latest work, "Murder Pilgrimage of Fuji's Five Lakes" with the myth of Konohana Sakuyohime and legends surrounding Mt. Fuji.

So we'd love to have your knowledge to serve as a reference. Watthahha!



I'm greatly looking forward to this, Pt. Inoue. Are your clothes dry yet?

















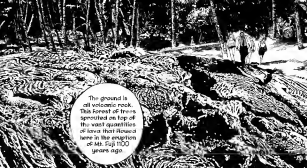
That's Haruka-
menhikan
line Naga? There was
gossip about
him having an
affair with
Hosokura
Mitsuo in
a women's
magazine!





To top it off, it's hard to walk with the ground so rugged...

This place isn't a suicide hotspot for nothing. It's got an eerie feel to it.



The ground is all volcanic rock. This forest of trees sprouted on top of the vast quantities of lava that flowed here in the eruption of Mt. Fuji 100 years ago.



One of my friends that likes spelunking told me about this place. And don't worry, I brought a GPS.

Are we sure about our destination? It's rather not get lost.







I...It's ice!
The whole
surface is
covered
in ice...!



It's called
an ice cave, a
lava cave with
a temperature
that's low like a
refrigerator all
year round...



I knew it!
Just like I
heard!



I...I
got it!

YOKOZUKI,
GO ON
DOWN
THERE
AND
HELP MR.
NAMEKA-
TA!



AAAAH!!

LUCK!!



The perpetrator
leaves with his
mistress, and
leaves an alibi.



A few days
after returning,
he would
report his wife
as missing, but
all anyone
could think is
that she left
alone and
died...



He could
have
been
injured,
you know!

Ms. Fujimori,
you pushed
Mr. Nanakata
down there
on purpose,
didn't you?



These iron drives
were used for food
storage long ago.
Hiding a corpse in
here could make
it difficult to
detect - the sign
of death, even
if she was only
discovered a
few days later...



Are you
taking notes
for your novel
at a time like
this? I don't
think that's all
that novel is
a trick...







I'm with the prefectural police. Can I ask you about how you came to discover the body...?



Of course!! I'll tell you everything I saw!!





IT'S
JUST A
COINCIDENCE!!

I...I HAD
N...NOTHING
TO DO
WITH IT! I
MEAN IT!



The second-generation parliamentarian Hira Nighti was arrested on murder charges two days later



Not
our
problem.



And now even
his father's
resigned from
his comfortable
seat as Minister...

They say he most
likely murdered
his wife, the office
treasurer because
she would not
accept a divorce,
and threatened to
go public with his
misappropriation
of political funds.



Well, there's no island bathing this time, but best of luck beautifying your skin, Yokozumi!

Taka
ha...



This hot spring doubles as a mud bath.
If you put the mud from the bottom on your skin, it can serve as a mud pack.

Oh,
really?
That's so
unique!



She's right.
There's mud
settled in the
bottom...





And the Kabuki
player Kaganer
gondomono has a
court lady named
"Tsusofu" as its
despicable villain.

They cut away
the ugliness of
their figures
and hearts, and
placed them upon
these characters.

The Kojiki tells of an
abominably jealous
woman named
"Tsuo-no-hime", the
empress consort of
Emperor Ninoku.



But that
is when men
receive their
just reward.

Then they all
pursue their
beautiful ideal
women...



They are both
aspects of
womanhood...

The
inseparable
Konohana
Sakuyohime
and Tsunagari-
hime share the
same root...

For...



◎新出一覧◎

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神國火〔後編〕・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・・『ビングコミック』2001年12月10日号
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